(b) if so, the total quantity exported to Russia during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have received any request from the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation to export cashew to Russia;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any possibility to export additional quantity of cashew to that country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total quantity of cashew kernels exported to Russia during each of the last three years has been as under :-

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (In Rs. Lakhs)
1993-94	5533	9231.73
1994-95	5516	9183.49
1995-96	13860	26205.35

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(c) and (d). A request has been received from Government of Kerala that a portion of Russian orders for import of cashew kernels from India during 1996-97 be entrusted to the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation at a mutually agreed terms and conditions.

(e) to (g). Cashew kernels are freely exportable to all countries including Russia against freely convertible currencies. However, following certain complaints, no ceiling has been fixed during 1996-97 for export of cashew kernels to Russia under the ESCROW Account/ Rupee Debt Repayment Mechanism. This issue will be taken up for discussion with the Government of Russia.

Decline in Export to U.K. and European Markets

1162. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of Indian goods to U.K. and European markets has reduced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the export of Indian goods to foreign markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Fifteen products have been identified for undertaking special export promotion efforts so as to increase export of Indian goods to foreign markets. Some of the other supporting measures in this direction include participation in international trade fairs, intensified exchange of business delegations, supply of necessary information and extending necessary facilities to commercial organisations, setting up of warehousing facilities, promotion of joint ventures etc.

Opening of New Route for Export to Bangladesh

1163. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has received any request for opening of a new route for export of Indian goods to Bangladesh via Haldibari;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the proposed route is likely to be opened in the interest of export of Indian goods to Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Land Customs Station at Haldibari Railway Station is non-functional as there is no rail traffic on the Haldibari-Chilahati route on account of the absence of railway track for about ½Km on the Indian side and 5 Km. on the Bangladesh side. Government are considering the merits of the proposal to restore the missing rail link. Government are also examining the merits of the proposal to allow trade with Bangladesh through the Haldibari-Chilahati route, by road. It is however not possible to fix a definite time frame for opening the rail and road routes, at this stage.

Vacant Posts of C.M.D. in Banks

1164. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Banks do not have their Chairmen-cum-Managing Directors;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the dates since when these posts have been lying vacant, bank-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay in appointing Chairman-cum-Managing Directors of these banks; and

(d) the time by which all such posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The posts of Chairman and Managing Director are lying vacant in two